



**NAME:** Lexa D. Medero- Hernández

**DEGREE:** Biology Universidad Ana G. Méndez - Recinto de Cupey (2019)

**DEGREE SEEKING:** Masters (MSc)

**THESIS/DISSERTATION TITLE:** Benthic foraminifera and their microbial endobionts

### **RESERCH INTEREST:**

The marine ecosystem is vast, rich, complex and fundamental for the sustainability of our planet. So are the microorganism communities that inhabits in it, they are even more abundant and complex than we can imagine. They exist from the beginning of the formation of our planet, have continuously changed to overcome the continuously abrupt climate change through the course time. Also they are important for a supportable and healthy ecosystem. My interest is to understand the evolution of microorganisms and how they adapt to the new conditions do to climate change. Recently I've been introduced to the topic of foraminifera and I gain interest in this peculiar protist group that has developed a shell as protection, moreover that they respond to high amounts of heavy metals in the water this is why they are used as bio-indicators. I would like to develop the skills to understand the behavior of foraminifers and those biological adaptations that they may have develop to overcome environmental factors in their habitat. Also I would like to understand if there's any symbiosis occurring with bacteria and the foraminifers to process heavy metals and if there is, how these organisms adapt to do this.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

N/A

### **ABSTRACTS:**

- **Medero\_Hernández, L.D.**, Schott, E.J. and Zaho, M., 2019 Genetic Variation of a Blue Crab Virus as a Tool to understan Crab Movement. Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) in Puer to Rico (**Oral**)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- Latin American-Caribbean Scholarship, August 2019
- Athletic Scholarship at Universidad Ana G. Mendez 2013-2015